Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-13 /069 W

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R 251605Z MAY 77 FM AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6138 INFO AMCONSUL BELIZE

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E.O. 11652 NA

TAGS: PFOR, GT, BH

SUBJ: EDITORIAL CALLS FOR US MEDIATION OVER BELIZE PROBLEM

- 1. SUMMARY: PROMINENT NEWSPAPER EDITOR CLAIMS THAT CONDITIONS ARE DEVELOPING FOR A "CONFLAGRATION" IN THE CARIBBEAN AND CENTRAL AMERICA OVER BELIZE AND THEREFORE US MEDIATION IS NECESSARY. END SUMMARY
- 2. JORGE CARPIO NICOLLE, EDITOR OF THE LEADING OPPOSITION DAILY, "EL GRAFICO," WRITES IN A MAY 23 EDITORIAL, "WHAT IS HAPPENING IN BELIZE IS EXTREMELY DELICATE; NOT ONLY IS THE DISPUTE BEING INTERNATIONALIZED, -- THE PROOF IS PANAMA "" BUT ALSO CONDITIONS ARE DEVELOPING FOR A CONFLAGRATION IN THE CARIBBEAN AND CENTRAL AMERICA THAT COULD PLACE REGIONAL STABILITY IN GRAVE DANGER. IN FACT, WITH OUR BACKS DANGEROUSLY AGAINST THE WALL WE ARE BEING FORCED TO RESORT TO ARMS TO ENFORCE OUR RIGHTS. CUBA HAS NOT DEFINED ITS POSITION, BUT ITS POSITION IS KNOWN. PANAMA, TORRIJOS IN PARTICULAR, IS WAVING THE FLAG OF BELIZEAN INDEPENDENCE WHICH CASTRO WOULD LIKE TO DO, BUT WHICH IS NOT CONVENIENT FOR HIM TO RAISE AT THIS TIME WHEN CUBAN-AMERICAN RELATIONS ARE EXPANDING. WASHINGTON'S POLICY HAS BEEN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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EXTREMELY LIBERAL: 'LET HAPPEN, LET OCCUR.' HOWEVER, NOW IS THE TIME FOR THE WHITE HOUSE TO UNDERSTAND THAT THE UNITED STATES CANNOT REMAIN ON THE SIDELINES OF THE DISPUTE. AMERICAN MEDIATION IS NECESSARY, GIVEN THE POLITICAL WEIGHT WHICH THE COUNTRY OF THE NORTH WIELDS IN THIS ITS CLOSEST SPHERE OF INFLUENCE. I HOPE THAT THIS IS UNDERSTOOD AND THAT WHAT COULD TURN THE CARIBBEAN

INTO THE SCENE OF AN ARMED CONFLAGRATION DESIRED BY NO ONE WILL BE AVOIDED." BOSTER

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